

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Polar Express™ Train Ride Tickets Go On Sale October 1st

*Presented by the California State Railroad Museum,
Popular Event Returns for Second Year*

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – After a sell-out first year event in 2007, the California State Railroad Museum is proud to offer *The Polar Express™ Train Ride* again this holiday season. Due to an overwhelming demand last year, additional train rides have been added for 2008. Tickets for *The Polar Express™ Train Ride* go on sale to the public on October 1 for the following twelve dates this winter: December 4-7, December 11-14 and December 18-21. Four train rides are available each day departing promptly at 3:00 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 6:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Utilizing a full-sized steam train decked out to reflect Christmas magic and headed to an imaginary North Pole, the staff at the California State Railroad Museum goes to great lengths to re-create the holiday experience depicted in the classic children's book of the same name by Chris Van Allsburg. Complete with keepsake golden tickets, hot cocoa, festive holiday cookies, Santa Claus sightings and even the coveted silver bells (that signify those who still believe in Santa Claus), the one-hour excursion starts at the Central Pacific Passenger Station in Old Sacramento and continues on a short journey sure to capture the holiday spirit. In addition, a number of free holiday-related children's activities and an opportunity for photographs with Santa Claus will be available in the Passenger Station either before or after the special train ride. And, visitors who ride aboard *The Polar Express™ Train Ride* will also receive free admission to the California State Railroad Museum good that same day or any other day the museum is open prior to January 1, 2009.

Ticket prices for *The Polar Express™ Train Ride* are as follows: \$24 for adults 18 years and older, \$16 for children and youths ages two to 17, and free for infants and toddlers under two years of age (assuming they do not take up a seat on the train). Based on demand and visitor feedback from last year, tickets are expected to sell out very quickly this year. Advance reservations are required and can be made by calling 916-445-8270 or visiting Will Call located just west of the entrance to the California State Railroad Museum at Old Sacramento State Historic Park.

More information about *The Polar Express™ Train Ride* and other museum related events, exhibits and activities is available at www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org.

Operated by California State Parks with assistance from the nonprofit CSRM Foundation, the California State Railroad Museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Widely regarded as North America's finest and most-visited railroad museum, the complex of facilities includes the 100,000-sq. ft. Railroad History Museum plus the reconstructed Central Pacific Railroad Passenger Station and Freight Depot, 1849 Eagle Theatre, and Big Four and Dingley Spice Mill buildings in Old Sacramento. 24-hour info: (916) 445-6645 or www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org

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